

## Message Text

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64  
ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 /035 W  
----- 129138

R 101308Z JUL 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: USIRJC, AFSP, IR  
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS  
REF:  
(A) STATE 153512  
(B) TEHRAN 6083  
(C) STATE 96982

1. DURING UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S VISIT, ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS RELATING TO JOINT COMMISSION COOPERATION WERE DISCUSSED WITH VAFA AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE BY POATS, DCM AND ADMIN COUNSELOR. SUBSEQUENT TO VISIT, FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH VAFA BY DCM AND ADMIN COUNSELOR.

2. SENIOR DEPUTY MINISTER MEHRAN TOLD CHARGE EVENING JULY 9 THAT VAFA HAS PREPARED A DRAFT AGREEMENT ON EXPEDITURES WHICH HE BELIEVES REFLECTS BOTH DISCUSSIONS HE HAS HAD AND EVOLVING CONSENSUS AMONG MINISTRIES WHICH WOULD LIKE TO ENGAGE U.S. EXPERTS. GIST OF CONSENSUS IS THAT EACH MINISTRY WOULD PAY THE CONTRACTING U.S. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY FOR SALARY, HOUSING ALLOWANCE, FURNISHINGS, TRANSPORTATION COSTS, ALL "ACCORDING TO U.S. STANDARDS" WITH DISPERSAL OF PAYMENTS ADMINISTERED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. MEHRAN EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NOT PERSONALLY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON DRAFT DOCUMENT BUT HOPES TO GIVE US "HIS FINAL VIEWS IN NEAR FUTURE." HE MENTIONED  
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THAT IN ANY CASE BECAUSE THESE TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS WERE NEW TO MANY OF THE GOI MINISTRIES INVOLVED; E.G., HEALTH AND HOUSING AREAS, HE DID NOT THINK THAT PLANS FORMULATED WOULD MOVE FORWARD IN TIMEFRAME WE HAD OUT-

LINED (REF C). HE ADDED THAT PROCESS OF GAINING INTERNAL CONSENSUS HAD BEEN SLOWED DOWN BY FREQUENT ABSENCES OF PERTINENT UNDER SECRETARIES. FOR EXAMPLE, VAFA IS ON THREE-WEEK CANADIAN TRIP.

4. MEHRAN FURTHER INDICATED THAT MANY OF THE MINISTRIES INVOLVED HAD NO CURRENT BUDGET PROVISION FOR SUPPORT OF FOREIGN TECHINICIANS ON THE SCALE SUGGESTED AND THAT, AS GOI WAS ENTERING PERIOD OF "RETRENCHMENT" IN EXPENDITURES AND PROGRAMS, MINISTERIAL REQUESTS WOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET CYCLE.

5. WHILE GOI IS SLOWLY COMING TO GRIPS WITH USG CONCEPTUALIZATION OF JOINT COMMISSION PROGRAMS, MEHRAN'S COMMENTS ONLY CONFIRM THAT PROGRESS WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE MUCH LESS RAPIDLY THAN WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

MIKLOS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 JUL 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** AFSP, IR, USIRJC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006